



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of GRAVES, Alan F.; CUNNINGHAM, Ian M.; STARK, Ryan; FELSKE, Kent E.; HOBBS, Chris; and WATKINS, John H.:

Serial No. : 09/893,493 Group Art Unit :  
Filed : June 29, 2001 Examiner :  
For : Communications Network For A Metropolitan Area  
Date : October 10, 2001 Docket No. : 08891912US1

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The Honorable Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 20231

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Further to Notice of Omitted Item(s) in a Nonprovisional Application dated August 20, 2001, we would respectfully request that you amend the subject application by substituting new specification page 19, enclosed herewith, for current specification page 19.

The new brief description correctly identifies Fig. 4 as being a single figure and not two Figures 4a and 4b.

Respectfully Submitted,

**GOWLING LAFLEUR HENDERSON LLP**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dallas T. Jones".

Agents for Applicant  
DFS:jq

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**Figs. 1a, 1b, and 1c** are topological views of prior art metro access networks;

5 **Figs. 2a, 2b** are diagrams of a portion of a prior art metro access network, comprising the path from a DSLAM through to one core network data router in a median complexity network such as that of Fig 1b;

10 **Figs. 2c, 2d** show the management structures that overlay the networks of Figure 2a, 2b respectively;

**Figs. 2e, 2f** show the transitions between each of the layers of the network as the traffic transits the paths of Fig 2a, 2b respectively;

15 **Fig. 3** is a diagram of a communications network in accordance with a first embodiment of the invention;

**Fig. 4a** shows communications control paths [in the network of Fig. 3;]

**[Fig. 4b shows]** and the network management for the network of Figure 3;

20 **Fig. 5** is a diagram depicting the topology of a communications network in accordance with a second embodiment of the invention;

**Fig. 6** shows communications control paths in the network of Fig. 5;

25 **Fig. 7** shows dual homed communications control paths in the network of Fig. 5 in accordance with a third embodiment of the invention;

**Fig. 8** shows optical carrier paths in the network of Fig. 5;

30 **Fig. 9** shows wavelength conversion of optical carriers in the network of Fig. 5;

**Fig. 10** is a diagram showing a portion of a first wavelength assignment plan usable for any of the above networks;